

# NEW MEXICO Fire Information

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Contact: Julian Rhinehart 505-438-7601  
Cell 505-231-2178

## New Mexico Fire Danger Highest in June



Santa Fe, New Mexico -- Wildland fire potential remains high this year in New Mexico, even with the anticipated approach this month of the monsoon season.



Wildland fire danger traditionally is at a peak in New Mexico during the month of June. Over the years June has been the month with both the largest number of wildland fires and also the month in which the most acreage burned.



Recent ten-year averages for June show nearly 400 wildland fire starts resulting in an average annual loss greater than 40,000 acres. This year to date in the state has not been an average year -- an exceptionally dry year which recorded the first major fire on January 1, 2006



Chuck Maxwell, Predictive Services Group Leader at the Southwest Area Coordination Center said. "While periodic inflows of moisture have lessened the chances of a major fire, the season is not over. These next few weeks before the onset of the monsoon season are going to be critical. We need several more fire-safe weeks, similar to the Memorial Day weekend New Mexicans just observed."



Maxwell points out that, "Many fires are started by lightning, but a large percentage is man-caused. Anything we can do for the next several weeks to lessen the chances of that potentially 'big one' getting started, will improve our possibilities of making it through what could develop into a catastrophic fire situation. The monsoon rains signal the end of the fire season, but we don't know precisely when they will begin. We hope very soon."



In the absence of that rainy season, numerous restrictions and closures are being placed upon federal and state lands throughout New Mexico. For a current update on these actions and other fire-related information check with New Mexico Fire Information [www.nmfireinfo.com](http://www.nmfireinfo.com) or 1-877-864-6985.